

overwhelming odds, and on his outstanding personal character. He won the admiration and respect of Northerners as well as Southerners. Lee fought for one section of the young nation, but the struggle did not make him intolerant. He fought, not for personal gain, but to prove himself worthy of a cause. Union General Ulysses S. Grant, to whom Lee was finally forced to surrender, said: "There was not a man in the Confederacy whose influence with the whole people was as great as his."

Unlike President Abraham Lincoln, who led the North in the Civil War, Lee was not a self-made man. Lee's family was the leading family of Virginia, and one of the most distinguished in the United States. A kinsman, Thomas Lee, had served as royal governor of the colony. Lee was also related to Francis Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee, who had been statesmen and soldiers in Revolutionary War days. His father, Henry Lee, known as "Light-Horse Harry," was a brilliant cavalry commander in the Revolutionary War. When the Lee mansion, Matholic, burned in the early 1700's, Queen Caroline of England gave Thomas Lee money to help rebuild it. Lee called the new building Stratford Hall.

Robert E. Lee was a handsome man, 5 feet 10½ inches (179 centimeters) tall and weighing about 170 pounds (77 kilograms). He presented a commanding appearance—straight, alert, and intelligent. He was never known to smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or use profane language. Lee was a moralist, and once said that *duty* is the sublimest word in the English language.

Early Years

Robert E. Lee was born in Stratford Hall, near Montross, Va., on Jan. 19, 1807. He grew up with a deep devotion to country life and to his native state, which continued throughout his life. He was a serious boy and spent many hours in his father's library. In 1825 he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, where his classmates admired him for his brilliance, leadership, and devotion to duty. He graduated from the academy with high honors in 1829, and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

In the Corps of Engineers. Lee served for 17 months at Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island, Georgia. In 1831 the army transferred him to Fort Monroe, Virginia, as assistant engineer. While stationed there, he married Mary Anna Randolph Custis (1808-1873), Martha Washington's great-granddaughter. They lived in her family home, Arlington, which still stands on a Virginia hill overlooking Washington, D.C. Their seven children—George Washington Custis, Mary, William H. Fitzhugh, Agnes, Annie, Robert Edward, and Mildred—were reared chiefly at Arlington. Two sons, George and William, later served as Confederate officers under Lee during the Civil War.

Lee served as an assistant in the chief engineer's office in Washington from 1834 to 1837, but spent the summer of 1835 helping to lay out the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan. His first important independent job came in 1837 when, as a first lieutenant of engineers, he supervised the engineering work for St. Louis harbor and for the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers. His work there earned him a promotion to captain. In 1841 he was transferred to Fort Hamilton

LEE, MANFRED B. See QUEEN, ELLERY.

LEE, RICHARD HENRY (1732-1794), was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. With Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, he helped lead the patriot cause in Virginia.

Lee was born at Stratford, Va., and was educated in England. In 1758, he was elected to the Virginia legislature, where he served until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He became especially active in Virginia's campaign of resistance to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts.

In 1774, Virginia sent Lee as a delegate to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. At first, he favored a policy of economic pressure on the British government. But, by late 1775, he began to think and plan in terms of independence. On June 7, 1776, Lee introduced a resolution that "these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved." The adoption



Richard Henry Lee

of this resolution on July 2 was the signal for American independence.

Lee was elected president of the Congress in 1784. He helped lead the opposition to the ratification of the United States Constitution, but served as a U.S. Senator from Virginia after it was adopted. Lee's last great service was the enthusiastic support he gave to the successful movement to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution.

CLINTON ROSSITER

LEE, ROBERT EDWARD (1807-1870), was a great general who commanded the Confederate Army in the Civil War. He is one of the most beloved figures in American history. Lee's fame rests on his military achievements as Confederate commander in the face of

